

## **Specific Training and Education in Co-Parenting – Dana Schneider**

Helping Co-parents Succeed after Divorce - Tools for Reducing Acrimony and Enhancing Cooperation / Isolina Ricci	December 2009
Neurological Implications of Dispute Resolution / Claudia Bernard	October 2009
Meditation and Psychotherapy: Cultivating Compassion and Wisdom / Harvard Medical School	May 2009
The Child Specialist: Listening to Children's Voices in the Collaborative Process – Pickar / Kahn	June 2009
Domestic Violence Differentiation and High Conflict Parents: Research Updates and Implications for Practice / Joan Kelly	January 2009
Difficult Personalities – Cheek / Kahn	November 2008
Building Collaborative Teams / Sharon Keating	January 2008
Introduction and Overview of Collaborative Process	January 2008
Assessing Client Suitability; Role of the Law	April 2008
Rosetta Stone of Child Custody / AFCC Conference	February 2008
Managing Your Most Difficult Clients / SCBA	September 2008
Impasse as a Narcissistic Crisis / Elizabeth Bader	September 2008
Men Evolving Non-violently	June 2008
Mediation Intensive / Gary Friedman – 32 hours	April 2008
Helping Children Whose Parents Divorce: Developmental and Therapeutic Considerations / UC Berkeley	October 2007
Lessons Learned From Talking to Clients About Collaborative Process / Pauline Tesler	July 2007
Consensus Building Through Appreciative Inquiry / Richard Kirk	June 2007
Recourse Mediation - 32 hours	Feb-March 2007
Harvard Negotiation / CCRE	April 2007
Cutting Edge Issues / AFCC conference	February 2006

Psychological and Legal Issues / Philip Stahl	August 2006
Domestic Violence Update / Philip Stahl	August 2006
Law and Ethics	August 2005
Working with Children in Divorce / Joan Kelly	July 2005
Divorce and Dying: The Collaborative Law Approach to Help Families Survive / Nancy Foster	May 2005
Association of Family and Conciliation Courts “California Best: Interdisciplinary Expertise, Experience, and Excellence” Conference - 13.5 hours	February 2005
Harris Seminars – Case Supervision - 22 hours	Sept-Jan. 2004-05
Psychological and Legal Issues in Relocation Cases / Philip Stahl	August 2004
Risk Management and Ethical Issues in Family Law for Evaluators and Therapists / Philip Stahl	August 2004
Domestic Violence / Daniel Sonkin	June 2004
Special Master Training / Joan Kelly	January 2003
Interviewing Children in Mediation and Special Master Cases / Joan Kelly	January 2003
Fundamentals of Family Law for Mediators and Therapists / Nancy Foster	June 2003
Developing Appropriate e Custody and Parenting Arrangements / Joan Kelly	June 2003
Collaborative Negotiation Training / Chip Rose	November 2002
The Developing Mind	January 2001
The Acting Out Adolescent	January 2000
Using Art Media and Imagery in Therapy with Children	January 1999
Parents and Communities Together: Strategies for Strengthening Families	September 1999

## **Questions:**

### **1. What families are best suited for co-parents counseling?**

The families that are best suited for co-parent counseling are the ones that have the support of their attorneys to participate in the process. It is helpful for parents that have the ability to recognize the importance of communicating about the well being of their children. If this message comes from their attorney as well as the co-parent counselor they are more likely to stick with the process. If they can put aside their passions and hurt to deal with the needs of the children they will be more capable of successful co-parenting. Many times people are reluctant to enter into co-parent counseling. I have found that it takes co-parenting to help clients to realize that this process is better for the children. So it is rare that they will enter the co-parenting process with these goals, but it is common for them to conclude the process with these goals.

### **2. How is co-parent counseling success measured?**

Co-parent counseling success is measured if the process has shifted or detoured from a focus on the conflicts left over from the marital relationship to the developmental needs of the child. Parents are able to make decisions based on what their children need rather than power struggles left over from the marriage. Parents move from a negative intimacy based relationship to a business based relationship.

Another measure is that when parents do find themselves having conflict that they have a structure for problem solving. If the process has helped to increase communication, keeps the children out of the middle of the conflict, and the couple realizes the importance of both of their relationships with the children, success is possible. Parents need to support their child's attachment to both parents and to realize that even if they don't like the other parent this is not usually how the child feels. If the parent can successfully support their child's attachment to the other parent, recognize the need to do this and focuses on the child's needs rather than their needs, successful co-parenting has occurred.

I also think that if the couple feels that co-parenting has been successful they will return to the counseling when they are at an impasse, need to renegotiate a parenting plan or if communication has broken down. This in my opinion would also indicate successful co-parenting, a commitment to the resolution process.

### **3. When might co-parenting counseling be inappropriate?**

If either of the attorneys does not support the process and there is confusion about who is helping the family with the parenting plan.